

A NEW VARIETY OF EUPHORBIA CELASTROIDES (EUPHORBIACEAE)

HAWAIIAN PLANT STUDIES 150

Harold St. John

Bishop Museum, Box 19000A, Honolulu Hawaii 96817, USA

This novelty has been checked against the revision by Koutnik (1987). There the Hawaiian species are all placed in the genus Chamaesyce. This segregate genus is separated by several invisible characters. In the writer's opinion these species are best left in the traditional genus Euphorbia.

Euphorbia celastroides Boiss. in DC., var. *arenisaxosa* var. nov.

Frutex perennis est, ramis usque ad 30 cm longis decumbentibus, internodis puberulis, petiolis 0.7-2 mm longis puberulis, laminis 5-15 \times 4-7 mm ellipticis, capitula terminali 1-3 mm alta puberula, capsula 2 mm longa subglobosa. Typus: Molokai I., Kaluakoi, sand dunes, 200 ft alt., H. St. John 23,486.

Perennial shrub; rootstock woody, as much as 12 mm in diameter; branches decumbent, up to 30 cm in length, slender, 0.5-3 mm in diameter, freely branching; internodes 8-15 mm long, puberulous, but early glabrate; nodes cuneate, enlarged; leaves opposite; stipules interpetiolar, hemispheric, puberulous; petioles 0.7-2 mm long, puberulous; blades 5-15 \times 4-7 mm, fleshy, subcoriaceous, broadly elliptic to elliptic, appressed serrulate to entire, above dark green and glabrous, (except that the base at first is sparsely puberulous), below whitish on the surface, but the major veins dark, the finely reticulate venation somewhat visible below, but conspicuous above, secondary veins 3-5 in each half; heads solitary, sessile, mostly terminal; involucre 1.3 mm tall, widely campanulate, puberulous to glabrate; receptacle densely puberulous; glands 0.5 mm wide, figure eight shaped, reddish black, separate; anthers 0.15 mm in diameter, subglobose; ovary 4 mm long, ovoid, glabrous; 3 styles 0.8 mm long, cernuous; capsules 2 mm long, subglobose, 3-lobed, brown, smooth.

Discussion: The new var. arenisaxosa is most closely related to Euphorbia celastroides, var. halawana of Molokai, a variety with the herbage glabrous; blades 1-3.5 \times 0.8-2 cm, the base rounded or subcordate, secondary veins 7-9 in each half; involucre tomentose at least above; glands oblong elliptic; and the capsule 3 mm long. The var. arenisaxosa has the internodes, stipules and petioles puberulous; blades 5-15 \times 4-7 mm, secondary veins 3-5 in each half; involucre puberulous to glabrate; glands figure eight shaped; and the capsules 2 mm long.

The new epithet is formed from the Latin arena, sand, and saxum, rock, and it refers to the habitat of the variety on stabilized, consolidated sand dunes.

Reference

Koutnik, Daryl L. 1987, A Taxonomic Revision of the Hawaiian Species of the Genus *Chamaesyce* (Euphorbiaceae). *Allertonia* 4(6): 331-357, figs. 1-24.